



This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) At least one mechanical counterbalance for use in balancing a disk pack includes a spindle motor rigidly coupled and aligned by at least two open screw holes with a disk clamp, comprising:

a cylindrical shaft rigidly coupled to a latching assembly, both centered about a primary axis, and a balance weight;

wherein said latching assembly includes a compressible latch rigidly coupled to a latch gap zone, both centered about said primary axis;

wherein said balance weight is rigidly coupled to said latch gap zone;

wherein said cylindrical shaft is rigidly coupled to said compressible latch;

wherein for each of said open screw holes, when said mechanical counterbalance is inserted into said open screw hole to lock said mechanical counterbalance,

said cylindrical shaft fits into said open screw hole,

said compressible latch compresses when pressed away from said cylindrical shaft in said open screw hole, and

said compressible latch expands when pressed further away from said cylindrical shaft in said open screw hole to lock said mechanical counterbalance against a member of a locking plate collection based upon said latch gap zone;

wherein said locking plate collection comprises said disk clamp and said spindle motor;

wherein said mechanical counterbalance has a total mass provided at essentially said primary axis when used in said disk pack; and

wherein said balance weight includes an interior face aligned toward members of said locking plate collection when said mechanical counterbalance is inserted into said open screw hole.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mechanical counterbalance is primarily composed of one material formed into said cylindrical shaft, said latching assembly and said balance weight;

wherein said material is at least one member of the collection comprising said material is essentially a plastic, and said material is castable.

3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said plastic is a nylon.

4. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mechanical counterbalance is free of each member of a contaminant collection comprising a particle larger than a first specification, a hanging burr larger than a second specification, and a contaminant determined by a third specification;

wherein said mechanical counterbalance being free of said contaminant collection members meets a fourth specification;

wherein each of said first specification, said second specification, said third specification, and said fourth specification, support a reliability specification associated with said hard disk drive.

5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mechanical counterbalance locks against said disk clamp.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, said locking plate collection further comprising at least one of said disk ~~spacers~~ spacer.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said compressible latch includes at least one member of a latch collection comprising a compressible ridge ring, and an M compressible fin ring; wherein M is at least two.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

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26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)